

CONTACT !



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2022
Issue 1
January - April*

BMVAF express their thanks to Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie, for her support to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc., particularly by allowing the BMVAF to use her communications entitlement for the production of this newsletter.

CONTACT !

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© **JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS and ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.**
 ABN 74 645 329 198 **incorporating** CFN 17276
RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION
and the BLUE MOUNTAIN NASHOS ASSOCIATION
THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

Contact Details for RAAF Vietnam Association (NSW)

Graham Christian - Email: raafvvnsw@gmail.com

Contact Details for Qantas "Skippy Squadron" Association

Rene Herbert - Email: renelynne@live.com - Mobile: 0490 054 240

Your Committee

President:	<i>Jack Lake</i>	<i>0481 041 356</i>
Secretary:	<i>Chris McKay</i>	<i>0427 794 914</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Craig Terrey</i>	<i>0411 125 666</i>
Vice President:	<i>Chris McKay</i>	<i>0427 794 914</i>
Committee Member:	<i>Roger Lawlor</i>	<i>0414 380 884</i>
Committee Member:	<i>Greg Meek</i>	<i>0447 536 694</i>
Committee Member:	<i>Mick Visinko</i>	<i>0404 004 715</i>
Wellbeing Coordinator:	<i>John Fenton</i>	<i>0412 679 802</i>
Vietnamese Liaison Officer:	<i>Jack Lake</i>	<i>0481 041 356</i>
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CONTACT! Editor:	<i>Wendy Humphrys</i>	<i>(02) 7252 3318</i>

2022

Association Meeting Dates

*Meetings commence at 11:00am in our office at
the Blue Mountains Theatre &
Community Hub, Springwood NSW*

Committee Meeting

**Tuesday
10 May 2022
11:00am**

Committee Meeting

**Thursday
9 June 2022
11:00am**

Committee Meeting

**Thursday
14 July 2022
11:00am**

Committee Meeting

**Thursday
11 August 2022
11:00am**

**Please contact the office to confirm
these meeting dates and time, as they
may change.**

Office Manager: Wendy Humphrys Phone: (02) 7252 3318

Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au Web site: www.bmvets.com.au

Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm

Wellbeing Support

John Fenton JP, ATDP3 Advocate on 0412 679 802

Or

Our office on (02) 7252 3318

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Here we are nearly in June and 2022 is flying past. Covid fortunately is taking a back seat but still be safe and cautious. It was great to attend Anzac Day in Springwood and see large crowds on the streets and a great Anzac commemoration service was held at the Springwood Cenotaph.

We congratulate Jim McKinnon Springwood Sub branch President and Secretary Kathy for their great effort.

Our main event this year is Memorial Day on Sunday the 14 August 2022 and please see your invitation which is included in this newsletter.

We will shortly have our mid year raffle and we are hoping that the next raffle towards the end of 2022 will be done 100% online, but more about that after the mid year raffle.

Veterans are a unique group of people and when you can reach out to other Veterans and see how they're going - it might be something that helps you and other Veterans.

I'd like to thank all our members and make sure you are travelling Okay as it's been a very tough couple of years.

Stay safe and I look forward to catching up.

Best regards

Chris McKay

WELLBEING REPORT

As we are learning to live with the scourge of COVID, it is essential not to let our guard down. The majority of our members form part of the most vulnerable cohort in the community. It is very important to remember this virus is still in our community.

With winter approaching please consider getting a “double jab,” that is, a second COVID booster & of course the flu’ shot.

Your Committee urge you to certainly enjoy life & the pursuits you followed before lockdown but be aware at all times.

I continue to provide Wellbeing Support to our Members & of course veterans whether they are Association Members or not.

John Fenton JP
Wellbeing Coordinator
ATDP 3 Advocate

Padre's Corner

Hello Everyone,

By the time you read this Easter will have past and we will have commemorated ANZAC Day. Both Easter and ANZAC Day remind us of sacrifice, sacrificial love, duty, and death however only one speaks of Resurrection and Eternal Life. Unfortunately, many people in our society see Easter as a time to have a public holiday, an opportunity to eat hot cross buns and Easter eggs, or chocolate Bilbies, chocolate Rabbits etc, even though these items have been on sale in many shops from Boxing Day and to do this without acknowledging the origins of any of it. Hot Cross buns symbolize the sacrifice of Christ and Easter eggs new life? For Christians Easter is a major religious festival of our year, it is the culmination of the message of Christmas.



For Christians, Easter commemorates not simply an empty tomb, but the death of Christ on the Cross and his resurrection in fulfillment of the prophecies of the early prophets. It is a most important Christian festival for all believers. **Without Christ's resurrection on that first Easter Day there would be no Christian faith, for the basis of our Christian faith is the birth, death and resurrection and ascension of Christ.** Regardless how terrible the suffering of Christ was, it was part of God's plan for the salvation of all people including you and me.



What does ANZAC Day mean to the average Australian today? A lot I hope, but it is more than getting medals out of moth balls and polishing them for their annual outing. It may be attending a dawn Service followed by a Gun Barrel Breakfast, it may be attending an ANZAC Day March, or watching the March on TV; or being part of a footpath remembrance service in your street; while these activities, may be an acceptable way of observing ANZAC Day do they reflect the true meaning of ANZAC Day. The true message of ANZAC Day. Is not a message to glorify war, is a message of sacrifice and service by a few for the benefit of many? It is a message of hope for the future. Winston Churchill's tribute to Battle of Britain Pilots remains true today of all who served in the cause of peace, "Never was so much owed by so many to so few"

To all who have served our great Nation, at home or abroad, in peace or war, thank you for your service

LEST WE FORGET

Lest we forget the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross for humankind, lest we forget the service and sacrifice of men and women both service personnel and civilians over the century in the cause of world peace.

May I finish with a prayer, which I believe reflects our needs to be with family and friends not just at special times during the year, but at all times throughout the year.

May the Risen Christ our good shepherd
surround *you and your loved ones and friends* with love,
fill *you and your loved ones and friends* with peace,
and lead *you and your loved ones* in hope,
and may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with *you, your loved ones and friends*

Vales



Edward Steele

21/07/1940 - 13/06/2021

QANTAS - "Skippy Squadron"
Flight Service Director

Overseas Service in Vietnam
Dates of Service Overseas 1965 to 1972

Service in Vietnam - Flight Service Director



John Woolley

26/08/1930 - 18/12/2021

British Army

Private

1/11/1947 to 10/06/1950

Service Number 22083127

Service Overseas in Palestine & Germany

Royal Army Parachute Regiment

More detail of John Woolley's life is on the
next page.

Lest We Forget



Vale

**EDWARD JOHN WOOLLEY
(John)**

26th August 1930 – 18th December 2021
BRITISH SECOND INDEPENDENT PARATROOP BRIGADE
(PARAS)

Born 1930 in the UK. Passed away 18th December 2021 at Springwood NSW.
A great mate, friendly and outgoing, always willing to assist and help with all sorts of tasks.
Sometimes quite outspoken if he thought it was required.

He was heavily involved with all types of ex-service organizations including the RSL State Council for the Blue Mountains for 6 years.

John was born 26 August 1930 at Tixall Lodge, Great Heywood, Staffordshire. Educated with a state school certificate and left school at the age of 14. Became a “brickies” apprentice and in 1947 enlisted in the British Army in an anti-tank regt then volunteered for the paratroop regt Brigade in Palastine. On return to the UK did two tours to Germany with the Army of Occupation. Went back to his trade (brickie) after discharge.

Arrived in Australia in 1955 travelling around Qld and NSW. In 1970 he was offered a job with the Dept of Corrective Service as Building Construction Overseer. He joined the CMF and served for 4 years reaching the rank of Sgt in the Military police.

John served with various volunteer organizations such as the local bush fire brigade Deputy Capt, President of Springwood RSL for 10 years, granted life membership 26th January, 2004. Joined the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc on 14th Sept 97 and held several positions. Also heavily involved with the local Salvation Army.

John is survived by his loving wife Barbara, children Jayne, Michael and Merri, daughter-in-law Jackie, son-in-law Rodney, grandchildren Kaija, Deon, Clare, Gymea, Jolene, James, Storm, Zach, Jack and 11 great grandchildren, stepchildren, Debra, Neil and Julie and great step children Michael, Benjamin James and Eric.

Rest in Peace old mate.

Jack Lake

COMMITTEE

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 9 December 2021.

Congratulations to the following elected Committee Members:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Jack Lake</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Chris McKay</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Craig Terrey</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Chris McKay</i>
<i>Committee Member:</i>	<i>Roger Lawlor</i>
<i>Committee Member:</i>	<i>Greg Meek</i>
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<i>Wellbeing Coordinator:</i>	<i>John Fenton</i>
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<i>Vietnamese Liaison Officer:</i>	<i>Jack Lake</i>

CHRISTMAS 2021 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Christmas Raffle 2021 winners:

1st Prize of \$500.00
Ticket Number 20329
Rene from Alford's Point NSW

2nd Prize of \$ 200.00
Ticket Number 18934
Beryl from Glenbrook NSW

3rd Prize of \$ 100.00
Ticket Number 19771
Denis from Surfside NSW



The association wishes to thank all our members who supported this members' only raffle.



The Invictus Games is an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans. The Games uses the power of sport to drive recovery, support rehabilitation, and generate wider understanding and respect for those who serve or have served their country.

Since the inaugural Invictus Games in London in 2014, the following Invictus Games have been held in Orlando (2016), Toronto (2017) and Sydney (2018).

The fifth Invictus Games, which will still be referred to as the Invictus Games The Hague 2020, were held in The Hague from April 16-22, 2022 with more than 500 participants from 20 countries participating in ten adaptive sports events.

Very proud Member, John King OAM was in The Hague to watch his son, Flight Sergeant Nathan King bring home the Silver Medal in the Discus Event and a Bronze Medal for the Backstroke Swimming Event.

Well done Nathan, you have done yourself, your parents & the ADF proud.



FSGT Nathan King

ADF service: Joined Air Force in 1996 and is currently serving at 37SQN. He spent the majority of his career supporting the C-130 Hercules aircraft and deployed twice to the Middle East region (in 2004 and 2006).

Competing in: Athletics, indoor rowing, swimming and sitting volleyball.

What is the nature of the injury or illness? Following complications from a damaged thigh playing soccer, he suffered compartment syndrome in the left thigh resulting in skeletal muscle breakdown, and was confined to the intensive care unit for six weeks. He lost two muscles in his left quad, which required extensive operations and skin grafts. He has restricted movement in his left leg.

Mid-year Raffle

Dear Member

Enclosed Mid-year Raffle Tickets

We have enclosed a book of 10 tickets for our Mid-year Raffle to all members, with the total prizes valued at **\$2000.00**.

Should you not wish to participate in this raffle, please return the unsold tickets to the Association.

The tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 (\$17 for the book). Please return the ticket butts, with your details written on them, and the monies by cheque or EFT (please do not send cash) as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday, 5 July 2022.

1st Prize	\$1200.00	Prepaid VISA or MasterCard
2nd Prize	\$600.00	Prepaid VISA or MasterCard
3rd Prize	\$200.00	Prepaid VISA or MasterCard

These cards can be used at **any** retail store, that accepts them.

The raffle will be drawn on **Sunday 10 July 2022**, the winners will be notified immediately. Results will be published in the following addition of Contact! and the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Our Bank Details are as follows:

BSB:	032-837
Account Number:	138817
Bank:	Westpac, Springwood NSW

Please include your name or membership number as the transferee detail.

Yours faithfully

Chris McKay
Secretary



Memorial Day Invitation

**Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
& Associated Forces Inc.**
cordially invite you to attend our

***Vietnam Veterans'
Memorial Day Service***

Sunday 14th August 2022

The Service, at Springwood War Memorial will commence at 11:00am & will be followed by a social function at the Royal Hotel, Springwood.

The Guest of Honour will be Mr Bob Debus, who opened the Long Tan Bridge in Springwood in 2003. At that time he was Attorney General, Minister for the Environment & Minister for the Blue Mountains.

Please advise the Association of your intention to attend and whether you intend to lay a floral tribute or a book, to be presented to a local school.

RSVP by 5 August
Phone: Office (02) 7252 3318
Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au

Please Note

We have to receive your RSVP to be able to include you as a guest of the association at the luncheon at the Royal Hotel, for catering purposes.

The ARVN's Veteran's Association in Australia-NSW Inc.

Armed Forces Day Invitation



TỔNG HỘI CỰU QUÂN NHÂN QLVNCH ỨC CHÂU
HỘI CỰU QUÂN NHÂN QLVNCH/NSW

THE ARVN'S VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA-NSW INC.
PO BOX 462 Marrickville NSW 2204
E-mail: minhvo_35@yahoo.com.au
Mobil: 0414235375

02 May 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I would like to invite your organisation to attend our Armed Forces Day which will be in details as follows

- 1 The time and date: 07PM, Friday, 17 June 2022;
2. The venue : Crystal Palace
219 Canley Vale Road, CANLEY HEIGHTS, NSW
2166

If you wish to attend this event please phone Jack Lake on
(02) 4754 2144 or 0481 041 356, as soon as possible

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
(ABN 74 645 329 198 CFN 17276)
PO BOX 55 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777
Phone: (02) 7252 3318 Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au

MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Please renew my membership/associate membership of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc for.....year/s

Surname:.....

Given names:.....

Address:.....

Town:.....State:.....Postcode:.....

Home phone number.....Mobile:.....

Email:.....

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY NOTES THROUGH THE POST

Annual Membership Fee: (BMVV&AF Inc.) \$ 10.00 x.....year/s \$

Membership Badge \$10:00 (plus \$5:00 postage if applicable) Total \$15:00 \$

Association Logo Car Sticker \$2:00 each \$

Pens \$5:00 each \$

Cap (with Logo) \$20:00 (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$30:00 \$

Polo Shirts (with Logo) \$30:00 (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$40:00 \$

Donation \$

I enclose a cheque/money order for TOTAL \$

Payment Details

Cheque or Money Order – please make the cheque payable to Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc. and forward to the above address OR

Direct Credit - BSB: 032-837 (Westpac Bank Springwood NSW) Account Number: 138817

Account Name: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. Reference: “*your name or membership number*”

Please Note: Please don’t forget to include ‘your name or membership number’ as the reference.

I agree to be bound by the rules of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.

SIGNATURE:.....DATE:.....

Office Use Only

Direct Debit/Receipt number:.....Date:..... Membership details updated:.....

Remarks:.....Membership card:.....